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John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

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To: Decatur C of C

John Allen Chalk

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FOR THE BULLETIN:

To the Membership
Decatur Church of Christ

Sue, Mary Beth, John and I want to thank you for the Christ-like interest you have shown us over the past several months. Never have we known a people to pray so much, to write so often, and to otherwise reveal their genuine concern as have you.

We deeply regret that pressing needs here in Abilene require that we stay and work with the Highland congregation. This decision came after much prayer and earnest examination of your thrilling work and the challenges we see here.

Your Elders are loving, Spirit-filled men who have given me wise counsel during these last seven months. I am saddened that I will not have the benefit of their spiritual leadership.

My family has been blessed by the special attention of the Crenshaws, the Glenns, the Stumbaughs, and others in the congregation. It is our conviction, however, that God has called us to another post of duty.

Pray for us as we remember you in our prayers. Thank you for loving and respecting us during the past several months. Forgive us the sudden decision to remain in Abilene. Accept our continuing concern and desire for your great ministry.

Fraternally yours,

John Allen Chalk

Dear Brothers:

On Sunday evening, July 6, 1969, I accepted the invitation of the Highland Elders to become their local preacher. I know of no persons whom I considered more in this decision than you men. My final conclusion was that each one of you had made your decision to move to Atlanta because of the call of Jesus and, therefore, would be able to minister effectively without my physical presence.

I do regret that I did not have the time to talk with each of you personally. I counseled at length with Steve Franklin with whom I could spend some time in Abilene this summer. Steve, of course, wanted me to come on to Atlanta as planned but also urged me to do what I believed to be the will of God. That I have done.

I am saddened by losing this opportunity to work with you. I believe each man who has decided to move to Atlanta as a Campus Missionary to be a uniquely qualified Christian servant. Brother Reavis, after getting to be with three of you, told me on the telephone that finer Christian men could not have been located.

Highland is in great need. I know some of the things she must have to become a dynamic, vital "people of God." I know some of the personal sacrifice and heartaches that are down the road for me if God is to truly use me. I feel more keenly my need of God than at any time in my life. Would you please pray for me as I pray for each of you, by name, every day.

I will be happy to answer any of your personal questions about my decision should you have any. Feel free to write any of your reactions that you might want to share. Otherwise know that I am asking God daily to bless your ministry.

Your brother,

John Allen Chalk

JAC:hm